

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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INVASIVE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Non-Native Water-milfoils

Myriophyllum L.

- herbaceous water plants (2 very invasive Water-milfoils are included on this card)
- underwater leaves in whorls; feathery, with many pairs of threadlike divisions
- there are many non-native and native species of Water-milfoil; ASK EXPERTS FOR HELP
- be suspicious of thick, dense growths of underwater stems with whorled feathery leaves

Parrotfeather Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc.

Alternate Common Names: Parrotfeather Milfoil; Brazilian Parrot's Feather

Alternate Latin Names: Enydria aquatica Vell.; Myriophyllum brasiliense Camb.; Myriophyllum proserpinacoides Gillies ex Hook. & Arn.

- leaves above water's surface resemble little conifer trees with bright green leaves, 3/4"-2"
- leaves are mostly above water, each with 6-18 paired divisions;
- underwater leaves, when present, have 20-30 paired divisions
- plant **never produces turions** (bulb-like shoots from the base or other parts of the stem)

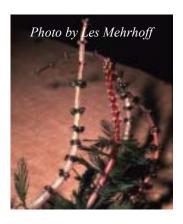
Eurasian Water-Milfoil Myriophyllum spicatum L.

Alternate Common Name: Spike Watermilfoil

- underwater leaves usually in whorls of 4 (3-5) individual leaves; each less than 1½" long
- underwater leaves most often with (9-)12-24 tightly-spaced, paired divisions
- underwater leaves tend to collapse around stem when pulled out of water
- stem frequently tan or tan-red; whorls widely spaced compared to leaf length
- leaf outline is usually narrower than an egg's shape; leaves look clipped (squared) at tips
- plant **never produces turions** (bulb-like shoots from base or other parts of the stem)
- small leaves above the water's surface are undivided and not toothed; flowers are pinkish







Text and photos by: Charlotte Pyle, October 2002 Helpful review provided by: Lillian Willis

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